including programmes on Education in the Cultural Exchange Programmes. In addition to the thrust on vocational education in the formal school system, the Government have been operating schemes for school drop-outs and disadvantaged groups through the National Open School, for the unemployed rural youth through the Scheme of Community Polytechnics, for adult literates through the Scheme of 'Jan Shikshan Sansthans' under the Programme of National Literacy Mission (NLM) and in colleges through the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Replacement of history books

662. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCERT history textbooks, which the NCERT has decided to replace, have been reviewed by other experts on history;

(b) if so, the names of the those experts and the details of their evaluation; and

(c) the grounds on which it has been decided to replace these books?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) Curriculum Development, one of the main activity of NCERT is an ongoing process which has to be sensitive and responsive to societal changes and emerging challenges in the field of knowledge, pedagogy, scientific and technical developments. Further, the earlier curriculum was more than twelve years old. Hence, NCERT had initiated the process of curriculum revision for school education leading to the release of the 'National Curriculum Framework for School Education' (NCFSE) document in November 2000. Based on the recommendations contained therein detailed subjectwise syllabi have been prepared and corresponding new textbooks including those for history are being developed. In the development of the new textbooks, NCERT draws upon the inputs and expertise of academicians, including teachers and subject area experts. There is no fixed panel of experts for writing the text books.

When the text books are finally printed, the names of the experts associated with the development of text books are mentioned in them.

Working Women's Hostels in Andhra Pradesh

663. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of working women's hostels established in Andhra Pradesh, with the assistance of Central Government;

(b) the names and addresses of NGOs running working women's hostels in the State and the grants being given to each of them annually; and

(c) the number of working women staying in each hostel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) 43 Hostels have been sanctioned in the State of Andhra Pradesh since the inception of the scheme in 1972-73.

(b) and (c) A Statement is given showing the name and addresses of the NGOs running the Working Women Hostel (*See* below). The Statement shows the sanctioned capacity for working women in each Working Women Hostel under the scheme. Sanctioned capacity for a Working Women Hostel cannot be exceeded. Non-recurring assistance as a one-time grant is provided under the scheme to the extent of 75% of the cost of construction of the hostel building and 50% of the cost of land. Recurring cost is not permissible under the scheme.